

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 094604
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-PSEBASTIAN

APPROVED BY: P. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094604

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM CAIRO DTD 27 APR 1977

DTG R 271241Z APR 77 QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 7083

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY RE US ARMS FOR AFRICA

REF: CAIRO 6437

1. AFTER FAHMY HAD GIVEN ME THE TEXT OF SOVIET MESSAGE
AND SADAT'S ORAL MESSAGE (SEPTELS), HE SAID THE
PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO INQUIRE ABOUT A US RESPONSE
TO THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR AFRICA. IF GOE
IS TO CHALLENGE THE SOVIET THREAT TO AFRICA, AS SADAT
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HAD DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, IT NEEDS MILITARY ASSISTANCE
FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, SADAT'S TALKS
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAD
ENCOURAGED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG WOULD ASSIST
EGYPT WITH ARMS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HENCE, THE MILITARY
LIST WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED. THE PRESIDENT WAS
ANXIOUS TO HAVE A REPLY ASAP. (FAHMY CLAIMED

SADAT IS TELEPHONING HIM EVERY DAY ASKING HIM IF THERE HAS BEEN A REPLY.)

2. SADAT HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF THERE IS A CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM, IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY SEND ARMS VALUED AT LESS THAN \$24 MILLION. HE HOPED THAT, IF NECESSARY, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD ADOPT SUCH A PROCEDURE.

3. I TOLD FAHMY THAT I HAD NO REPLY AS YET TO THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST. IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE A MATTER AS OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS SEEM TO BELIEVE, AND THE REQUEST REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY. MOREOVER, AS FAHMY WAS AWARE, THE ADMINISTRATION IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING A NEW ARMS POLICY. I COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE RESPONSE MIGHT BE, BUT EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE TYPE OF PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY SADAT TO AVOID SUBMITTING SUCH A MATTER TO THE CONGRESS IS HARDLY PRACTICAL. IT WOULD (#)

BUT
WOULD ALSO HURT THE POSITIVE IMAGE THAT SADAT HAS SO EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. I ASKED FAHMY TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT I WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS A RESPONSE IS RECEIVED. (#) OMISSION
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW. EILTS UNQTE VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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